GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2312
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2016
Certification of Organic Products
Nayak Shri B.V.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) sets guidelines and standards for certifying organic farms and their products;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the measures being taken by APEDA to ensure the genuineness of organic products available in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a & b): The National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) lays out the Standards for Organic Certification for the export of organic products. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous organisation under the Department of Commerce, functions as the Secretariat for NPOP for export of Organic products.

(c) : Organic products under NPOP are certified through third party certification. Presently, there are 25 Certification Bodies accredited by the National Accreditation Body (NAB,) under NPOP for certification of organic products.

The Certification Bodies issue a scope certificate, having a validity of one year, to the Operators. The scope certificate is issued only after physical inspection of the farms, units and warehouses wherein the products are produced, processed and handled before export. The physical inspection includes verification of the compliance to the standard requirements at each stage of operation, as per NPOP, to ensure that the possibilities of contamination and co-mingling do not exist.

Organic products are traded only through issuance of Transaction Certificates (TCs) wherein the product identity and traceability is maintained. The TCs are also issued only by the accredited Certification Bodies. All the handlers of the product in the supply chain are required to be in the certification system under NPOP and need to obtain TC whenever the product is traded.
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